

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 02307 251913Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /060 W

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R 251852Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1802

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2307

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINR, CA

SUBJECT: EX-RCMP INTELLIGENCE OFFICER DENIES HE SAID THERE
WAS USG INVOLVEMENT IN QUEBEC IN 1970

1. IN AN EMOTIONAL 30-MINUTE TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH
CBC TORONTO FROM JOHANNESBURG, FORMER RCMP INTELLIGENCE
OFFICER LESLIE J. BENNETT DESCRIBED STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED
TO HIM IN THE TORONTO STAR SEPT 22 AS "TOTALLY UNTRUE,
MISCHIEVOUS AND IRRESPONSIBLE."

2. BENNETT STATED HE DID NOT KNOW HE WAS BEING INTER-
VIEWED FOR PUBLICATION BY STAR REPORTER TOM HAZLITT AND
CLAIMED THAT IN FACT HE HAD DENIED VERACITY OF RUMOR
OF US INVOLVEMENT IN QUEBEC CRISIS WHICH HAZLETT HAD
QUOTED HIM AS CONFIRMING. HAZLITT, WHO WAS ON ANOTHER
TELEPHONE IN TORONTO, STUCK TO HIS ACCOUNT BUT CONCEDED
THAT HE HAD NOT TAKEN ANY NOTES DURING HIS 14-HOUR
MEETING AND THAT HE HAD RAISED RUMORS OF USG INVOLVEMENT
WITH BENNETT.

3. BENNETT INTERVIEW HAS BEEN WIDELY PUBLISHED AND
APPEARS TO HAVE DISCREDITED HAZLITT STORY.
SCHMIDT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973OTTAWA02307
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730912/aaaaaiqn.tel
Line Count: 50
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <31-Dec-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EX-RCMP INTELLIGENCE OFFICER DENIES HE SAID THERE WAS USG INVOLVEMENT IN QUEBEC IN 1970
TAGS: PINS, PINR, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005